Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2004

Faith Sharing Readings and Questions

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Theme: God: Deliverer from Distress

Question for Adults: In the midst of the holy family's peril, God acted to save them. What this tells me about God is…
Question for Children: How has God delivered your family from distress?

Mon., Dec 20, 2004
Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38
No Mass
Office Hours – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. – Lay Ministry Class
7:30 p.m. – Y.E.S.

Tues., Dec 21, 2004
Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45
8:00 am – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: Repose of Otis Park
Office Hours – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
7:00 pm – Communal Penance at OLBH
7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Meet
7:30 pm – Venture Crew

Wed., Dec. 22, 2004
1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56
5:45 pm – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: Healing of the Sexually Abused
Office Hours – 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Food Pantry – 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.
7:00 pm – Church Decorating Party & Dinner

Thur. Dec 23, 2004
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66
8:00 am – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: Repose of Jill Gallant
Office Hours – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Hay Ride and Caroling

Fri., Dec 24, 2004
Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 / 18-25
4:30 pm Children's Liturgy
Office Closed
Ministry Schedule:
Bread Baker: *Mary Corbine; all three masses*
Altar Servers: *Clint & Shannon Wilson, Korry & Chris Beyer*
Euch: Min.: Body: *John Osnes*
Blood: *Frank & Donna Boner, Judy Wilson, & Betsy Van Asma*
Lector: *Donna Boner & Teresa Thompson*
Sacristan: *Charlie & Patty Cresalia*
Ushers: *Tom Van Asma & Don Everson*
Music: *Youth Choir & Strings*

Sat., Dec 25, 2004
Reading

Midnight Mass
Is 9:1-6 Titus 2:11-14 Lk 2:10-11
Ministry Schedule:
Altar Servers: *Matthew Jacobs, Jessica Ferley, Dana Schubauer & Adam Johnson*
Euch: Min.: Body: *Beth-Anne Ferley*
Blood: *Mary & Brad Blauvelt, Kathy Johnson & Brenda Jacobs*
Lector: *Tyler Schubauer & Jacob Johnson*
Sacristan: *Mary & Brad Blauvelt*
Ushers: *Marc Jacobs & Duane Schubauer*
Music: *Family Choir*

9:00 a.m. Mass
Is 62:11-12 Titus 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20
Ministry Schedule:
Altar Servers: *The Strand Family*
Euch. Min.: *Body: Pat Roe*
Blood: *Lorinda Collings, Barb & Gary Erickson, Wayne Roe*
Lector: *Tom Collings & Cathleen Denekamp*
Sacristan: *Barb & Gary Erickson*
Usher: *Joyce & Pat Clark*
Choir: *Folk Group & Regina*

Sun., Dec 26, 2004
Holy Family
Readings:
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

***** 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Eucharist with Baptism**
Ministry Schedule:
Bread Baker: *Irene Daschel; both masses*
Altar Servers: *Caiti & Kerry Wilson, Bethany & Hannah Ehresmann*
Euch: Min.: Body: *Walt Wilson*
Blood: *Dean & Mary Antonsen, Frank & Donna Boner*
Lector: *Reeny Wilson & Diane Clarke*
Sacristan: *Frank & Donna Boner*
Ushers: *Phillip Clarke & Stan Barber*
Music: *Regina's Minstrels*

9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Donuts

9:30 – 10:45 a.m. – NO YF Class

***** 11:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Eucharist**
Ministry Schedule:
Altar Servers: *Jacqui Osnes, Austin & Kaleah Evans, Mary Pulaski*
Euch: Min.: Body: *Walt Wilson*
Blood: *Carrie Nickle, Barb Scheer, Joni Osnes & Christine Diedricksen*
Lector: *Joni Osnes & Laura Varilek*
Sacristan: *Carrie & Doug Nickle*
Ushers: *James Pulaski & Rob Varilek*
Music: *Family Choir*

CONGRATULATIONS
To Dan & Joanna Konechne on the Baptism of Jocelyn Rose

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

SPARKS FROM MARK:

I would like to invite all of you to our reconciliation liturgy this Tuesday December 21 at 7:00 p.m. I cannot think of a better way to prepare for the coming of the Christ, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace than by making room in our hearts by confessing our sins and be returned back to the grace of the Father and the Church.

Bishop Cupich will be here to preside and preach at our reconciliation liturgy as well as 10 other priests to help us in preparation for Christmas. It should be a great celebration leading us to the joy of the birth of the new born King, once again in our hearts.

Please read the following excerpt from the Rites of the Catholic Church as revised by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Volume One:

The members of the Church, however, are exposed to temptation and often fall into the wretchedness of sin. As a result, "whereas Christ, 'holy, harmless, undefiled' (Hebrews 7:26), knew no sin (see 2 Corinthians 5:21) but came solely to seek pardon for the sins of his people (see Hebrews 2:17), the Church having sinners in its midst, is at the same time holy and in need of cleansing, and so is unceasingly intent on repentance and reform."

In the sacrament of penance the faithful "obtain from God's mercy pardon for having offended him and at the same time reconciliation with the Church, which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, example, and prayer seeks their conversion."

RECONCILIATION WITH GOD AND WITH THE CHURCH
Since every sin is an offense against God that disrupts our friendship with him, "the ultimate purpose of penance is that we should love God deeply and commit ourselves completely to him." Therefore, the sinner who by the grace of a merciful God embraces the way of penance comes back to the Father who "first loved us" (1 John 4:19), to Christ who gave himself up for us abundantly.

"The hidden and gracious mystery of God unites us all through a supernatural bond: on this basis one person's sin harms the rest even as one person's goodness enriches them." Penance always therefore entails reconciliation with our brethren and sisters who remain harmed by our sins.

In fact, people frequently join together to commit injustice. But it is also true that they help each other in doing penance; freed from sin by the grace of Christ, they become, with all persons of good will, agents of justice and peace in the world.

Prayer Corner: *Please remember in your daily prayers:*

Angela Meyer - Repose
Jenny Walz - Repose
Suzy Kostel – Repose
Janice Thorstenson
Orland Kraus – improved health
Justin Judy- improved health
Judi James - for healing
Matthew Bearden - improved health
Bob Roseland – peace
Terry Roseland – improved health
Fr. Dale Kutil – peace
Vickie Bergeron – improved health
Ember Smith – improved health
Jay Aadland – improved health

Children's Offertory Envelopes

Any family who has not received *Children Offertory* envelopes may pick them up in the gathering area.

STEWARDSHIP
Dec 11th & 12th, 2004
General Collections

Loose	$694.52
Envelopes	$2,568.00
Votive	$18.01
Student	$53.73
Adopt A Seminarian	$150.00
Building Fund	$125.00
Immaculate Conception	$188.00
Religious Retirement	$26.00
Total	$3,823.26

Faithful Citizenship – The Good News of the Birth of the Child

"At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). The source of this "great Joy" is the Birth of the Savior; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfillment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21)."

-Evangelium Vitae: On the Value and Inviolability of Human Life, par. 1, Pope John Paul II, 1995

URGENT!!!

We are in need of one or two people to teach the newly combined 9th & 10th grade class on Wednesday evenings. Due to the large number of students it is necessary to start this class, so please consider taking on this ministry to our young people. Call Brenda

Youth Minister

Looking for a part-time coordinator for Youth Ministry. Must have or are willing to acquire a Certificate of Youth Ministry Studies. Please have résumé in by January 2nd. If you have any questions, please call Fr. Mark McCormick or Brenda Czmowski at 787-5168.

POINSETTAS

Donations of poinsettias for the church for Christmas would be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to the church and put them in the library some time after Sunday the 19th and before Wednesday 22nd.

Church Decorating

The Liturgy Committee wanted to invite everyone in the parish to come and help to get the church and the parish ready for the Celebration of Christmas season. We will be gathering on Wednesday December 22 with Mass at 5:45 pm for those who would like to attend, followed by supper in the Rectory, which I prepare and cook. Then we will proceed to decorate the church and the parish for the Christmas Season.

Hayride and Caroling

December 23rd, 7pm-9pm. Come join us on a hayride and sing Christmas Carols. Following the caroling you can warm yourself with hot chocolate and cookies!

Diocesan News:

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are being accepted for the position of Chancery Office Receptionist. Duties include:

- Full responsibility for all aspects of the receptionist function in a
- Positive and hospitable manner;
- Processing incoming and outgoing mail;
- Maintaining general office supply inventory;
- Providing departmental support as needed;

Applicants should possess excellent public relations skills with the ability to project a calm demeanor both in person and on the telephone, general secretarial, clerical and computer skills, a demonstrated high level of confidentiality, commitment and attention to detail. Competitive salary and benefits package available. Closing date for applications is January 15, 2005.

Interested individuals should request an application form from the Chancellor, PO Box 678, Rapid City, SD 57709-0678

Marriage Encounter Weekends. 2005 dates are February 11-13, April 1-3 and April 22-24th. This is a time for married couples to examine their lives together – to know each other more completely and love more deeply. You will learn effective ways to dialogue, and have opportunities to share feelings, fears, hopes and joys. For more information or registration contact John and Dawn Elsinger at 605-362-0924. Pre-registration is required. For general info, or a brochure on Worldwide Marriage Encounter please call Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Happiness Is An Inside Job' (Level II)

This is an 8-week support group for Christian men and women looking for greater self-knowledge and balance in their lives, as well as a closer relationship with God. Level II will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday nights, January 13 – March 10, at the First Congregational Church, 1200 Clark Street, Rapid City. Registration fee: $35.00. Pre-registration is required. Minimum 12 participants needed. Registration deadline is Friday, January 3. For questions, contact Family Life Ministries at 343-354.

Looking for CURSILLIO? Cursillio is a weekend filled with Christian community, worship, priest's talks and prayer time. The next men's weekend is scheduled for January 6-9 at Broomtree Retreat Center. For more information please contact Ronda Kantack at 605-692-7978, or Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Christian Family Planning Seminar

Fr. Peter Kovarik will host a Christian Family Planning Seminar on January 8, 2005 in Hot Springs. The seminar, a requirement for engaged couples, is also an enriching learning experience for married couples and anyone wanting to know more about NFP and the Church's teachings. For more information and to register, call Family Life Ministries at 605-343-3541

For the Ride Home
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2004
Eternal Birth

Scripture

- Therefore the LORD himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)
- Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place?
  One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. (Psalm 24:3,4)
- … descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:3,4)
- Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
  For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. (Matthew 1:20)

Reflection

- Is Jesus born once in time or eternally in souls of all who seek Him?
- What is essential for Jesus' to be born in time?

"The WORD became flesh" (John 1:14). This is what is of benefit to the faithful: that the WORD comes to be in each one. For what good is it to me if the WORD comes to dwell in the world, but I have no part in him?[1]

This absolute emptiness, this poverty, this obscurity holds within it the secret of all joy because it is full of God. To seek this emptiness is true devotion to the Mother of God. To find it is to find her. And to be hidden in its depths is to be full of God as she is full of Him, and to share her mission of bringing Him to all men.[2]

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[1] Origen, *Origen Spirit and Fire, A Thematic Anthology of His Writings* , translated by Hans Urs von Balthasar, (Washington, D.C., The Catholic University Press), p. 186. cuapress.cua.edu/books.htm

[2] Merton, Thomas, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, (New York, New Directions), 1961, p. 174. www.wwnorton.com/nd/Welcome.htm